

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated February 26, 2004 are respectfully requested. In that Office Action, the Examiner objected to some typographical errors in Claims 7-9. Further, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 and 4-10 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,597,395 to Kim et al. Finally, Claim 3 was rejected as being obvious over the Kim et al. patent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

In response, applicants have amended Claims 7 and 9 to correct the informal errors noted by the Examiner. Claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled and their limitations have been incorporated into Claims 1 and 7, respectively.

Turning to the rejection of the claims based upon the Kim patent, applicants respectively submit that there are significant differences between the methodology of the Kim patent and the present claimed invention, as amended. While applicants agree that the Kim patent also provides a method for black level calibration, the methodology used in the Kim patent is significantly different than the claimed invention, as amended.

Specifically, Claims 4 and 8 have been incorporated into Claims 1 and 7, respectively. These limitations relate to the use of a **second counter** to determine the automatic gain control and amplification system. This is not fairly shown in the Kim patent. While the Kim patent discloses an automatic gain control block 200, there is no indication that the automatic gain control block 200 can be adjusted in any manner, let alone be adjusted based upon the use of a second counter as is required in Claims 1 and 7.

While the Examiner argues that voltage level B constitutes a second set voltage level, this is simply incorrect. The Examiner also argues that the voltage level B from the microcomputer is also the first set voltage level. How can the voltage level B be both the first set voltage level and the second set voltage level? The first set voltage level as used in the claimed invention is

used for modifying the black calibration level while the second (different) set voltage level is used for modifying the automatic gain control system. The Kim patent does not address the modification of the automatic gain control at all.

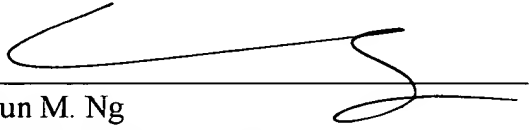
To clarify this point, applicants have amended the claims to specifically recite that the first set voltage level and the second set voltage level are different from each other. With this amendment and clarification of the claims, it is believed that the claims as presented are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6488.

Respectfully submitted,
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